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**Statement from State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan on Today's Indictments/
Arrests Related to the Macedonia Church of God in Christ Fire in Springfield**

In response to today's announcement of three indictments/arrests related to the post-election arson fire at the Macedonia Church of God in Christ in Springfield, State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan commended the cooperation and efficiency of the joint investigative effort between federal, state and local agencies.

Coan said, "I applaud this tremendous joint effort which has brought together the best and the brightest from among many local, state and federal public safety agencies. All those involved worked seamlessly and tirelessly over the past couple of months in order to solve this horrific act to the Macedonia Church of God in Christ. Whenever there is a fire in a house of worship, it has a tremendous impact on the fabric of a community. The timing of this serious incident, immediately following the election of Barack Obama, made the expeditious resolution to this case even more urgent."

"I hope that today's arrests and indictments will give a sense of closure, and a new beginning, to the members of the Macedonia Church of God in Christ as well as to the surrounding community as it looks to rebuild in the future," concluded the State Fire Marshal.

The Macedonia Church of God in Christ was still under construction when it was destroyed by fire the night of the presidential election this past November.